

Leipzig/Paris, 27 May 2015 – embargoed until 10:30 Central European Time

## Road deaths continue to fall – but great disparities between countries

### 42% fewer road deaths in IRTAD countries since 2000

Road deaths have continued to fall, but strong disparities exist between countries, according to latest data compiled by IRTAD, the permanent working group on road safety at the International Transport Forum.

The 2014 provisional data show that 15 of the 28 IRTAD member countries for which figures are available managed to reduce the number of road deaths, while 8 countries saw an increase. For the other countries there was no significant change. The range was between 21% fewer road deaths and a 16% increase, as shown in Table 1.

Validated figures for 2013 show that the number of road fatalities fell by 4.3% between 2013 and 2012 in the 32 IRTAD member countries with verified data. The long-term trend shows a very significant decrease of 42% between 2000 and 2013 in IRTAD countries.

The economic downturn which started hitting most IRTAD countries since 2008 has had a substantial impact in the reduction of fatalities. Modelling work by the ITF shows that it contributed to two-thirds of the reduction between 2008 and 2010.

The IRTAD countries with lowest road mortality rates are located in Europe: Sweden and the United Kingdom recorded fewer than 3 fatalities per 100 000 inhabitants in 2013. In some member countries, however, this rate is still in excess of 10 (see Map 1 and Table 4).

Although substantial overall fatality reductions have been achieved since the year 2000, the pace of improvement for vulnerable road users is lower than for car occupants. While fatalities among car occupants were reduced by 54% between 2000 and 2013, decreases were only 36% for pedestrians, 35% for cyclists and 22% for motorcyclists. As a consequence in many countries, road safety priorities have recently shifted from motorised rural traffic to vulnerable road users in urban areas.

The encouraging results achieved in IRTAD countries should not hide the fact that every year 1.3 million people are killed and tens of millions are injured, 90% of them in low and middle income countries.

Against this background, the Second Global High Level Conference on Road Safety in Brazil on 18-19 November 2015 will review progress within the context of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety and agree on measurable objectives for the next five years. The Decade's goal is to "stabilise and reduce" global road fatalities by 2020.

Through IRTAD, the International Transport Forum will continue to work towards that objective, by sharing knowledge and best-practice road safety policies with countries that aim to improve their road safety performance

Said IRTAD-Group chair Fred Wegman: "The IRTAD Group is aware that its current members account for only 6% of global road fatalities, and it is our intention to pursue our geographical expansion and to assist countries interested in building up and improving their road safety data system."

### **Tables with detailed figures are given below in the Annex**

- ▶ Press releases: [www.internationaltransportforum.org/2015/media](http://www.internationaltransportforum.org/2015/media)
- ▶ Webcast: [www.internationaltransportforum.org/2015](http://www.internationaltransportforum.org/2015)
- ▶ Twitter: [@ITF\\_Forum](https://twitter.com/ITF_Forum), #ITF2015
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### **ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT FORUM**

#### **Who we are**

The International Transport Forum is an intergovernmental organisation with 54 member countries. It acts as think tank for transport policy and organises the Annual Summit of transport ministers. ITF is the only global body that covers all transport modes.

#### **What we do**

ITF works for transport policies that improve peoples' lives. Our mission is to foster a deeper understanding of the role of transport in economic growth, environmental sustainability and social inclusion and to raise the public profile of transport policy.

#### **How we do it**

ITF organises global dialogue for better transport. We act as a platform for discussion and pre-negotiation of policy issues across all transport modes. We analyse trends, share knowledge and promote exchange among transport decision-makers and civil society. ITF's Annual Summit is the world's largest gathering of transport ministers and the leading global platform for dialogue on transport policy.

# ANNEX

Table 1. **Latest developments in road fatalities by country**  
(recorded road fatalities in 2014 compared to the same period in 2013, provisional)

Country	2014 data – status	2013	% change)	Trend
Argentina	Estimation		-2.8%	-
Australia	1 156 – provisional	1 187	-2.6%	-
Austria	430 – final	455	-5.5%	--
Belgium	715 – estimation	724	-1.2%	-
Canada	<i>Not available</i>			
Chile	2 119- final	2 110	+0.4%	=
Czech Republic	688 – final	654	+5.2%	++
Denmark	183 – provisional	191	-4.2%	-
Finland	226 – provisional	258	-12.4%	---
France	3 388 – provisional	3 268	+3.7%	+
Germany	3 368 - provisional	3 339	+0.9%	=
Greece	793 – provisional	879	-10%	--
Hungary	626 – final	591	+5.9%	++
Iceland	4	15	11 fewer fatalities	--
Ireland	195 – provisional	188	+3.7%	+
Israel	279 – final	277	+0.7%	=
Italy	Provisional data from principal road network only		Approx. -5%	
Japan	Provisional	5 152	-6%	--
Korea	4 762 - provisional	5 092	-6.5%	--
Lithuania	265 – provisional	258	+2.7%	+
Luxembourg	35 – final	45	10 fewer fatalities	---
Netherlands	570 - final	570	No change	=
New Zealand	295 provisional	254	+16.1%	+++
Norway	148 – provisional	187	-21%	---
Poland	3 202 – final	3357	-4.6%	-
Portugal	Not available			
Slovenia	108 – final	125	-13.6%	---
Spain	Not available			
Sweden	270 – final	260	+3.8%	+
Switzerland	243 – final	269	-9.6%	--
United Kingdom	1807 – provisional Sept 2013- Sept.2014	1769 (09/2012- 09/2013)	+2.1%	+
United States	Estimate based on projections	32 719	-0.1%	=

Police-recorded fatalities (except for the Netherlands)

### Legend:

Change between -1% and 1%: =

Decrease 1-5%: -

Decrease 5-10%: --

Decrease >10%: ---

Increase 1-5%: +

Increase 5-10%: ++

Increase >10%: +++

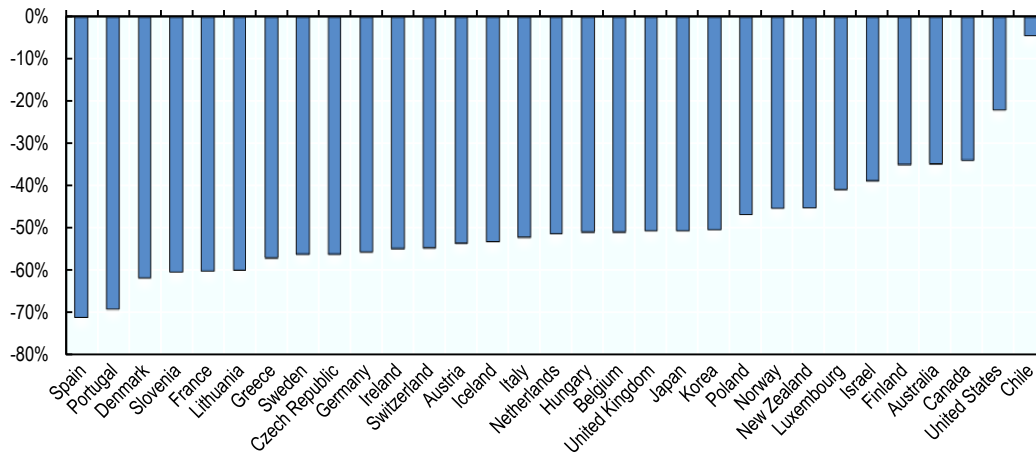
Table 2. Trends in road fatalities by country

Road Fatalities									
Country	Recent data				Average annual change <sup>1</sup>				
	2013	2012	2010	Change 2013-2012	2013-2010	2010-2001	2000-1991	1990-1981	1980-1971
Argentina	5 209	5 074	5 094	2.7%	0.7%	-	-	-	-
Australia	1 187 <sup>p</sup>	1 300 <sup>p</sup>	1 353	-8.7%	-4.3%	-2.7%	-1.7%	-3.9%	-1.0%
Austria	455	531	552	-14.3%	-6.2%	-5.9%	-5.0%	-2.5%	-3.9%
Belgium	724	770	840	-6.0%	-4.8%	-6.1%	-2.7%	-1.3%	-2.8%
Canada	1 923 <sup>p</sup>	2 076	2 238	-7.4%	-4.9%	-2.3%	-2.6%	-3.3%	-0.2%
Chile	2 110	1 980	2 074	6.6%	0.6%	0.2%	-	-	-
Czech Republic	654	742	802	-11.9%	-6.6%	-5.5%	1.2%	0.8%	-4.9%
Denmark	191	167	255	14.4%	-9.2%	-5.7%	-2.2%	-0.5%	-6.1%
Finland	258	255	272	1.2%	-1.7%	-5.0%	-5.1%	1.8%	-7.8%
France	3 268	3 653	3 992	-10.5%	-6.5%	-7.6%	-2.7%	-2.3%	-2.9%
Germany	3 339	3 600	3 648	-7.3%	-2.9%	-7.0%	-4.4%	-	-
Greece	879	988	1 258	-11.0%	-11.3%	-4.4%	-0.4%	2.8%	3.0%
Hungary	591	605	740	-2.3%	-7.2%	-5.6%	-6.1%	4.7%	-1.3%
Iceland	15	9	8	6 more fatalities	23.3%	-11.5%	1.9%	0.0%	2.0%
Ireland	188 <sup>p</sup>	162	212	16.0%	-3.9%	-7.1%	-0.8%	-2.0%	-0.2%
Israel	277	263	352	5.3%	-7.7%	-4.5%	0.4%	-0.2%	-4.0%
Italy	3 385	3 753	4 114	-9.8%	-6.4%	-5.9%	-1.5%	-2.2%	-1.9%
Japan	5 152	5 237	5 806	-1.6%	-3.9%	-5.9%	-3.6%	2.8%	-6.7
Korea	5 092	5 392	5 505	-5.6%	-2.6%	-4.2%	-4.5%	8.7%	5.6%
Lithuania	258 <sup>p</sup>	301	299	-14.3%	-4.8%	-9.1%	-6.5%	3.4%	-
Luxembourg	45	34	32	32.4%	12.0%	-8.3%	-1.0%	-3.7%	1.5%
Netherlands	570	650	640	-12.3%	-3.8%	-5.7%	-1.0%	-3.0%	-5.0%
New Zealand	254	308	375	-17.5%	-12.2%	-2.1%	-3.7%	1.0%	-1.4%
Norway	187	145	208	29.0%	-3.5%	-3.1%	0.6%	-0.2%	-4.2%
Poland	3 357	3 571	3 908	-6.0%	-4.9%	-3.8%	-2.5%	2.1%	-
Portugal	637	718	937	-11.3%	-12.1%	-7.3%	-4.5%	0.3%	3.5%
Slovenia	125	130	138	-3.8%	-3.2%	-7.5%	-4.2%	-1.0%	-1.6%
Spain	1 680	1 903	2 478	-11.7%	-12.2%	-8.5%	-4.6%	3.9%	1.9%
Sweden	260	285	266	-8.8%	-0.8%	-7.8%	-2.5%	-0.2%	-3.9%
Switzerland	269	339	327	-20.6%	-6.3%	-5.5%	-3.7%	-2.2%	-3.8%
United Kingdom	1 770	1 802	1 905	-1.8%	-2.4%	-6.8%	-3.1%	-1.3%	-2.8%
United States	32 719 <sup>p</sup>	33 782	32 999	-3.1%	-0.3%	-2.7%	0.1%	-1.1%	-0.3%

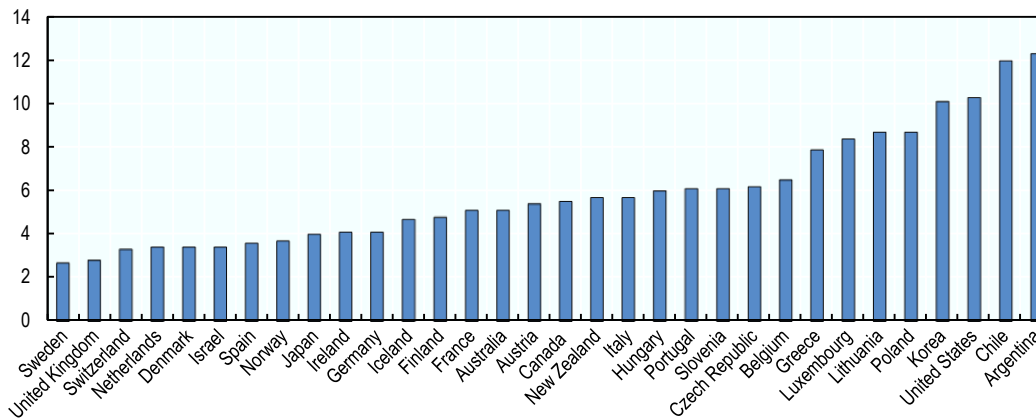
Police-recorded fatalities (except for the Netherlands for 2000 onwards, see country report). Death within 30 days.  
p=provisional data for 2013.

<sup>1</sup>Geometric mean:  $1 - (\text{Fatalities}_{\text{EndYear}} / \text{Fatalities}_{\text{StartYear}})^{1/n}$  n...Number of years (n=9 for period 2001 to 2010)

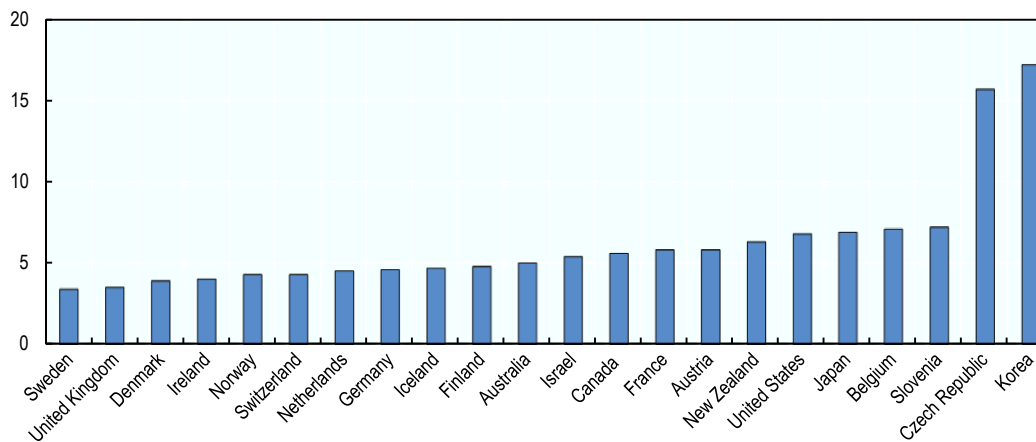
**Table 3. Decline in road fatalities between 2000 and 2013 by country**



**Table 4. Road fatalities per 100 000 inhabitants in 2013 by country**



**Table 5. Road fatalities per billion vehicle-kilometres in 2013 by country**



Note for all charts: Provisional data for Australia, Canada, Ireland, Lithuania and the United States. 2012 data for the Czech Republic for Table 5.

Map 1. Road fatalities per 100 000 inhabitants in 2013 in IRTAD member countries

